4:Whiteley E-4 (no date) 1950 FQ5 Bemba FQ5

I. THE BEMBA AND RELATED PEOPLES

TRIBAL AND SUB-TRIBAL GROUPINGS AND DEMOGRAPHY

NOMENCLATURE

The Bemba and Bisa were formerly known as the Wemba and Wisa on account of the fact that the initial consonant is a bi-labial fricative the sound of which is midway between a European W and a B. In the new orthography B is used to represent this sound. The Aushi (also called Batushi, Ba-usi, Wa-uzhi, Wa-usi) were formerly known as Ushi but the nomenclature here adopted is now generally accepted.

The Unga are described in Belgian publications as Honja, while Kawendi are also sometimes described as Bena and Kabende.

POPULATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The Bemba are the largest tribe in Northern Rhodesia; their numbers in 1933 being given as 114,274,(1) although a later figure suggests that 140,000(2) is more accurate. The 1933 figures for the other groups are as follows:-

Bisa	41,591	Ngumbu	24,116
Aushi	28,958 *	Chishinga	22,604
Unga	13,670	Tabwa	7,918 *
Kawendi	9,189	Shila	5,536 *
Mukulu	10,522	Bwile	4,745
		Twa	1,480

(* Excluding groups living in the Belgian Congo)

The density of population is difficult to estimate on account of wide local variations; an impression may be gained from the following estimates for administrative districts:-

	Persons per square mile	
	1938(3)	1949(4)
(Chiengi	4.05)	Not listed as a district in subsequent publications
Mporokoso	4.05	4.6
Abercorn	6.2	6.9
Isoka	3.54	4.6
Kasama	6.67	8.0
Luwingu	7.86	9.2
Fort Rosebery	7.79	8.0
Chinsali	3.46	3.7
Mpika	1.86	2.3

(1) Moffat Thomson, 1934.
(2) Richards, 6, 1939.
(3) Pim, 1938.
(4) Appendix F. *Report of the Financial Relationship Committee*, Lusaka 1949. The source of these figures is not, however, stated.